

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information-transfer system for transferring an object and relevant information from a sending source to a  
5 receiving destination, comprising:

information storage means, which is attached to said object and stores said relevant information;

information storing means, which writes into said information storage means said relevant information in association  
10 with key information when said key information and said relevant information are entered at said sending source;

key-information sending means, which sends said key information from said sending source to said receiving destination through a route different from that taken by said object; and

15 information reading means, which reads from said information storage means said relevant information that corresponds with said key information when said key information is entered at said receiving destination.

20 2. The information-transfer system set forth in claim 1, wherein:

if said object is delivered through at least one en route location, then said relevant information comprises a plurality of relevant information sets each of which is specific to and to be  
25 conveyed to a corresponding one of said en route locations and said receiving destination, and said key information comprises a plurality of key information pieces each of which is distinct and specific to a corresponding one of said en route locations and said

receiving destination;

said information storing means writes into said  
information storage means said relevant information sets  
specifically in association with said key information pieces, which  
5 correspond to said en route locations and said receiving destination,  
respectively;

said key-information sending means sends said key  
information pieces each key information piece being specifically for  
a corresponding one of said en route locations and said receiving  
10 destination; and

when said key information piece received is entered, said  
information reading means reads from said information storage  
means only said relevant information set that corresponds with  
said key information piece entered.

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3. The information-transfer system set forth in claim 1  
or 2, wherein:

when said key information is entered, said information  
reading means reads from said information storage means only  
20 said relevant information that is associated with said key  
information entered and deletes from said information storage  
means said relevant information that is associated with said key  
information entered.

25 4. The information-transfer system set forth in any of  
claims 1 ~ 3, wherein:

said information storage means comprises an IC tag,  
from and to which said relevant information can be read and

written without any physical contact.

5        5.    A physical distribution system comprising at least one physical distribution base, through which an object is delivered from a sending source to a receiving destination, wherein:

              said physical distribution system comprises the information-transfer system set forth in any of claims 1 ~ 4.

10        6.    An information-transfer system for transferring an object and relevant information from a sending source to a receiving destination, comprising:

              information storage means, which is attached to said object and stores part of said relevant information;

15               information storing means, which divides said relevant information into first relevant information and second relevant information and writes said first relevant information into said information-storage means at said sending source;

20               divided information sending means, which sends said second relevant information from said sending source to said receiving destination through a route different from that of said object; and

25               information reading means, which restores at said receiving destination said relevant information from said first relevant information read from said information storage means and said second relevant information received from said divided information sending means.

7.    The information-transfer system set forth in claim 6,

wherein:

if said object is delivered through at least one en route location, then said relevant information comprises a plurality of relevant information sets each of which is specific to and to be  
5 conveyed to a corresponding one of said en route locations and said receiving destination;

said information storing means stores into said information storage means divided sets of first relevant information, each divided set of first relevant information being  
10 specifically associated to a corresponding one of said en route locations or said receiving destination;

said divided information sending means sends divided sets of second relevant information from said sending source, each divided set of second relevant information being sent specifically for  
15 a corresponding one of said en route locations or said receiving destination through a route different from that of said object; and

said information reading means restores each relevant information set for a corresponding one of said en route locations or said receiving destination from said divided set of first relevant  
20 information that is specified to the corresponding one of said en route locations or said receiving destination and from said divided set of second relevant information that has been received from said divided information sending means.

25 8. The information-transfer system set forth in claim 6 or 7, wherein:

said information reading means reads said first relevant information from said information storage means and deletes said

first relevant information from said information storage means after the reading.

9. The information-transfer system set forth in any of  
5 claims 6 ~ 8, wherein:

said information storage means comprises an IC tag,  
from and to which said relevant information can be read and  
written without any physical contact.

10. A physical distribution system comprising at least  
10 one physical distribution base, through which an object is delivered  
from a sending source to a receiving destination, wherein:

said physical distribution system comprises the  
information-transfer system set forth in any of claims 6 ~ 9.